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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

Military Units in Sliven in 1949

1. The following military units were located in Sliven in November 1949:
 - a. The 2 Horse Artillery Regiment, Podelenie 2242;
 - b. The 11 Rifle Regiment; and
 - c. An unidentified tank brigade.
2. The 11 Rifle Regiment moved to Elkhovo in 1950 and is still located there. The regiment occupies a summer encampment every year from April to October near Sveti Nikola (N 42-27, E 27-39), Elkhovo Okoliya.
3. The 2 Horse Artillery Regiment and the unidentified tank brigade are still in Sliven. They share a barracks area north of the city and just south of an Army gasoline depot. There are three main buildings in the barracks area, as follows:
 - a. A 3-story barracks building, about 40 x 70 meters; and
 - b. Two other buildings used as stables and garages, approximately 40 x 200 meters.

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4. The Commanding Officer of 2 Horse Artillery Regiment in 1949 was Lieutenant Colonel Shopov and the Political Officer was Senior First Lieutenant Dringov.
5. The regiment was equipped with about 20 Soviet ZIS-3 76 mm. D/42 M 1942 field guns and approximately 20 howitzers which were used for training. The field guns weighed 1,116 kilograms "in place" and the shell that they fired weighed 12 kilograms. They were drawn by three teams of horses and manned by 8 soldiers. The breech mechanism weighed 9 kilograms and was semi-automatic in that it ejected the empty cartridge case after firing.
6. The Commanding Officer of the unidentified tank brigade in 1949 was Captain Nikolchev. The brigade was equipped with about 25 "70-ton Soviet tanks."

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Military Storage Areas in Sliven and Gabrovo

7. Approximately five kilometers north of Sliven near the Sliven vineyards there are two prohibited military storage areas which are enclosed by a barbed-wire fence. One area is approximately 300 x 500 meters in size and is located in an open, flat space called Krastovo Pole, while the other area is approximately 200 x 300 meters in size and is located about 500 meters east of the larger area. The first area contains five ammunition and weapon storehouses, three of them 2-story buildings approximately 15 x 20 meters, and the other two are 1-story buildings, about 8 x 20 meters. In 1949 this area was guarded by 18-20 men. The second storage area contains an unidentified number of underground gasoline storage tanks. Five sentries are always on guard, one along each of the four sides and one at the entrance gate.
8. A prohibited area, 200 x 300 meters in size, known as the State Storage Area (Dürzhaven Reserv) is located in the Balkan Mountains south of Gabrovo about 400 meters east of a height called Sveti Nikola. Informant does not know what type of material is stored in this area. The area is enclosed by a barbed-wire fence and contains a 1-story brick building, about 12 x 75 meters in size. The area is guarded by an unidentified number of militiamen. Geno Metodiev, an ardent Communist from Gabrovo who was a political prisoner prior to September 1944 is in charge of the area. Until he obtained his present position in 1952 he was employed by the "Sürp i Chuk" military uniform and equipment factory in Gabrovo.

25X1

Fortifications in Elkhovo Okoliya

9. There are zig-zag lines of trenches about 150 centimeters deep and 80 centimeters wide between Bolyarovo (N 42-09, E 26-48) and the Turkish border. Informant knows of the following lines:
 - a. Two lines, about 70 meters apart, located about 300 meters east of Bolyarovo;
 - b. Four or five lines, some of which also have covered shelters, about 50 meters apart, located about 250 meters south of the lines mentioned above; and
 - c. Two or more lines, about 75 meters apart, located near Malko Sharkovo (N 42-06, E 26-49).

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11. There are numerous concrete bunkers on the hills in the border area which dominate the border. These bunkers are circular in construction and their embrasures face the border. Two such bunkers are located about 200 meters apart in an area called Chestata Shuma which is between Bolyarovo and Ruzhitsa (N 42-09, E 26-52). One of these bunkers is on the southern slope of a wooded hill while the other is on the southern slope of a bare hill.
12. In all there are three lines of concrete fortifications between Elkhovo and the Bulgarian-Turkish border constructed on the heights of dominant hills. These fortification lines are located as follows:
- a. A line of bunkers just south of Elkhovo;
 - b. A line extending from Dobrich (now Tolbukhin) to Zlatitsa or Zlatinitza (N 42-09, E 26-43); and
 - c. A line between Bolyarovo, Ruzhitsa and Malko Sharkovo.
13. These bunkers are built to resemble huts and are camouflaged with branches, twigs and shrubbery. They are also enclosed in five or six rows of barbed-wire. Entrance into the bunkers is through steel doors which are left open. All the bunkers observed by informant were unoccupied and neglected, with the posts supporting the barbed-wire usually flat on the ground. However, they are cleaned out by soldiers occasionally. Two such circular bunkers were observed by informant just south of Elkhovo, one on either side of the road.

Miscellaneous Military Information

14. A member of the class (nabor) of 1933 in Bolyarovo was called for military service in the fall of 1952.
15. The classes of 1926, 1927 and 1928 in Gabrovo and Bolyarovo were called for three months' reserve service during 1952 and the first eight months of 1953. The men in those classes who had not yet been called as of August 1953 expected to be called before the end of the year.
16. In August 1953 informant observed 10 to 12 single-engine planes on the airfield about 600 meters west of Yambol. Informant could give no other details.
17. The following natives of Bolyarovo are currently serving as Army officers:

a. Captain Angel Petrov Georgiev

b. Senior First Lieutenant Kircho Vladev Kirov, political instructor

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